REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to obviate the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection and to correct informalities. No new matter has been added.

Independent claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Honjo (U.S. 5,557,105) and Fernandez (U.S. 6,376,984), which collectively fail to teach or suggest passing each of an array of charged particle beams through individual ones of a plurality of pole pieces, there being one pole piece associated with each charged particle beam, and through a single lens coil surrounding the plurality of pole pieces, as presently claimed.

The office action concedes that such features are not found in Honjo but attempts to rely on Fernandez to describe same. Fernandez discloses a type of photocathode emitter as a source of electron beams and notes that a magnetic lens, including a set of coils and magnetic pole pieces, may be disposed immediately downstream of an extraction electrode. Fernandez, col. 2, ll 47-51. However, this discussion reveals nothing about the detailed structure of the magnetic lens and, importantly, fails to suggest that a single lens coil surrounds a plurality of pole pieces, wherein individual charged particle beams pass through each of the pole pieces, as claimed.

Hence, the combined teachings of Honjo and Fernandez fail to provide all of the features of the presently claimed inventions and, accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the combination of the cited references.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 31, 2006

/Tarek N. Fahmi/
Tarek N. Fahmi, Reg. No. 41,402

SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
Post Office Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
(415) 882-5023